

To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

## The National Tribune.

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NOTICE.

When you send in your subscription always state whether renewal or new subscriber.

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Times are certainly improving. The number of failures and the amount of liabilities fell off very markedly for May.

Another great fruit steamer has been put on the Tampa line, which shows the rapidly growing demand for transportation of Florida products.

A train of 50 cars loaded solely with tomatoes was one of the instructive object lessons on a Florida railroad last week.

The London Lancet says that the aeroplane is liable to produce an illness like seasickness. So far the alarm has been too much interested in their spark plugs and the possibilities of their necks from a sudden descent to think about minor forms of illness.

The people of Florida are looking forward to Osceola County becoming one of the very richest and most attractive in the State. The County has 1,800 square miles of area, and its population has more than doubled since the establishment of the St. Cloud Colony.

It shows a more rapid increase in population than any other County in the State.

Sir William Henry White, for many years Chief Constructor of the British Navy, has been called into consultation by the Cunard Company with reference to installing gas engines in their large ships, and his advice has been against this at the present stage of the art. The main trouble is that beyond a certain size in gas engines the heat involved is uncontrollable by present devices.

There has been much talk about what could be done by gas turbine engines, but so far this seems to be mainly talk, and the inventor of this type of engines seem indisposed to submit their engines to critical test at present.

The English have pushed the prerogatives of the legislative branch of their Government to the last extreme, and resent to the uttermost any dictation or influence from the throne. This is shown by a resolution adopted by the House of Commons Dec. 17, 1783—117 years ago—and which is still the law of the land:

"Resolved, That it is now necessary to declare that to report any opinion or pretended opinion of His Majesty upon any bill or other proceeding depending in either House of Parliament with a view to influence the votes of members is a high crime and misdemeanor, derogatory to the honor of the Crown, a breach of the fundamental privileges of Parliament, and subversive to the Constitution."

We have to again remind comrades that The National Tribune cannot publish much poetry; cannot republish articles which have appeared in other papers, and can pay no attention to anonymous letters. The paper is small, and if we attempted to publish entirely any speech—even that of the President of the United States—this would take up our space to the exclusion of other matter. We cannot publish matter which has appeared in other papers, for the reason that we have a great quantity of original matter in the office awaiting publication, and for which we have difficulty in finding room. If we attempted to publish all the long poems that are sent to us there would be nothing else in the paper. Let the comrades understand that we are all the time trying to get a bushel of matter into the space of a peck, and it is hard work.

Col. John W. Frazier, of Philadelphia, has entered an energetic protest against the action of Dr. Elliot in putting Col. Haskell's story of the battle of Gettysburg on his five-foot book shelf. Haskell was a very young man, who immediately after the battle wrote a long letter to a friend giving an exceedingly interesting account of the battle, but marred by the natural inaccuracies which would come from gathering up camp gossip immediately after the battle, when the facts were not all well ascertained. What is particularly offensive is that he states that the Philadelphia Brigade, which met Pickett's charge, ran away, throwing down their guns and flags. This is an illustration of the misunderstanding of facts too common immediately after a fight. The truth is that a great number of Pickett's men threw down their guns and rushed thru the front ranks of the Philadelphia Brigade in order to surrender and escape the terrific fire which the brigade was then pouring upon the enemy in front. Haskell's narrative contained similar misstatements with regard to some New England troops, which were suppressed when the Commandery of the Loyal Legion reprinted the story. Finally the Wisconsin Historical Society published the narrative entire at the expense of the State, and Dr. Elliot has included it among his list of authoritative historical works.

## TO PENSION-GRUDGERS.

Gentlemen: Believing that all of you are fair-minded and open to conviction on every great public question, we wish very much that you could read the Wilderness Campaign, now running in The National Tribune. Even a casual reading would startle you with overwhelming reasons why the Government to-day should hesitate at nothing which looks toward a decent recognition of what the veterans have done for it. The fundamental facts which enter into that story are that May 5, 1864, 118,000 young men, the flower of the country's manhood, young men just ready to enter upon an active and successful career in civil pursuits, were formed into regiments, brigades, divisions and corps, crossed the Rapidan to execute the high public duty of crushing the insurgent army, restoring peace to the Nation, preventing the country's disruption and laying deep and broad the foundations for all that we now enjoy. They immediately encountered the insurgent army in the gloomy depths of the Wilderness, and began the bloodiest encounter that ever took place between civilized armies. For 20 tumultuous days, without cessation, without rest, without respite of any kind, living on the meagerest food, enduring the beating of the storms and the intense labor of marches forced to the last point of human endurance, they fought the enemies of the country day and night. When they were not engaged in murderous collisions they were marching thru the mud and drenching rain or over roads which had suddenly dried under the parching heat of a Virginia Summer, they were building with feverish energy breastworks to protect themselves, or they were watching with eyes of desperation to get the advantage over their active foemen or prevent their getting the advantage over them. Aside from the awful carnage of the fighting, the life of which the world has never seen, the mere physical strain of the marches and labor of building works under the pressure of mortal excitement, the denial of all sleep and rest except by fitful snatches during that terrible month, were such as to appall the imagination. Any employer who would subject his men to one-tenth of the exhausting labor and privations of those awful 30 days would be denounced to-day as an inhuman monster. His name would be held in execration as a merciless tyrant. Yet these men imposed this body-racking labor upon themselves as a matter of patriotic duty. It was absolutely necessary in order to save the country that they must not only shoot the rebellion off the minds of the insurgents, but they must wear them out physically, even tho' they wore themselves out in doing so.

Before the end of May—within less than three weeks after crossing the Rapidan—more than half that splendid army of 118,000 young men were lying in shallow graves or were languishing in hospitals from wounds or physical breakdown.

Then as to the fearful dangers, the incredible loss of life, limb and bodily vigor they endured, let us take one single instance. The 57th Mass. left Boston Common April 18, 1864, with 1,952 vigorous, patriotic young Americans, men who if they had remained at home would have done a great work for themselves and the community in building up the country and providing homes and a competence for themselves and families. May 6, a short 18 days later, the regiment went into the awful death swirl in the Wilderness, losing 47 killed, 161 wounded and 43 missing. Out of that one regiment in that brief time more men were killed and wounded than make up the whole loss of armies in battles in the earlier wars of the country. One would think that this was enough for such a body of men; but as soon as it could care for its dead and wounded and refill its emptied cartridge boxes, it made a midnight march to Spotsylvania, where it at once went under a deadly fire again, and on May 12, it lost 13 killed, 55 wounded and four missing. For six days longer it took part in the fighting around Spotsylvania, building breastworks in the rain and making night marches when it was not fighting; and May 24, it lost 10 killed, 13 wounded and 14 missing at the North Anna. By this time its field officers had all been killed or wounded, and the regiment was commanded by a Captain. Every day the searching fire of the enemy struck down some in its ranks, but these are not mentioned. There is only room enough for what fell in the greater battle. Soon, we come to an assault which is made with the bayonet upon the enemy's works, when it lost 11 killed, 30 wounded and three missing, among the severely wounded being, as usual, the commander of the regiment. By the time of the desperate fight at the Crater it had only seven officers and 91 enlisted men left for duty in the ranks, and of these 45 did not respond to roll call after that awful fight. All that gathered around the colors to represent that regiment at the close of the engagement were one Lieutenant and 46 men. Of the seven officers who had gone into the fight only one escaped. Of the 1,952 men who left Boston Common April 18, 802, or four out of five, had been killed or wounded within a few months. One hundred and twelve officers and men had been actually killed in action, 137 more had died of wounds and disease, and 34 were starved to death in Southern prisons. We ask you, gentlemen, to think for a moment what monetary inducement would lead you to follow the colors of that regiment from the crossing of the Rapidan to the works in front of Petersburg? Is there money enough in the United States Treasury to tempt you to undergo the overwhelming labor that every man in that regiment endured from the Rapidan to the James, to say nothing of the appalling danger of battle where your chances of escaping a bullet were only one in five? What was true of the 57th Mass. is true in a more or less degree of every regiment which crossed the Rapidan May 5, 1864, for that final death grapple with the insurgent army. What is true of the men that formed the magnificent Army of the Potomac is true in a more or less degree of the men who formed every other army of the Union in its great work of crushing the rebellion and restoring peace and prosperity to the country. We ask you, in all fairness, gentlemen, to devote a little of your time to a consideration of such undeniable facts as these. Enjoying as you do to-day all that these men bought for you at such fearful price, you cannot in decency refuse to devote a little time to the consideration of the debt of gratitude that you owe them. Thanks to what they did, to their unbounded sacrifice of themselves, you are not called upon to-day to even have a disturbing thought as to the safety of the country or the unsettledness of any of the conditions which you now enjoy. Surely you can take a little time to reflect upon these things, to understand with some degree of comprehension what service in the Union army meant; and if you will do so, we have not the slightest fear that you will come to the conclusion that the Government has not and cannot, if it gave its whole revenues to the survivors, overpay them for what they did. Do what it may, it cannot make even a decent return for what they unstintingly gave to purchase for you all that you now enjoy.

Trusting that you will allow these suggestions to find lodgment in your mind, we are,

Very earnestly and respectfully,

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

THE EX-PRISONERS OF WAR.

The following is only one of many similar letters of which we are in constant receipt:

Editor National Tribune: As one of the many Union soldiers who for 14 months was a prisoner of war, and as such, I am glad to hear of the suffering, not only while a prisoner, but during all the years since that time, I write to you in behalf of my comrades in misfortune. As you are well known efforts have been made from time to time to have the Government recognize this class of patriots in a way that will enable them to pass their declining years in a fair degree of comfort, yet so far nothing tangible has resulted. This, of course, is not because our legislators are ungrateful, and who who profess the country in its hour of trouble, but because of a multitude of bills and a press of other matters.

It is, however, true that the time is fully ripe for some definite and certain action by Congress; that it should in some measure recompense the ex-prisoners of war for their sacrifice and sufferings since they returned to their homes some 44 years ago. During all these years they have been to a great disadvantage because of the trials and disabilities endured behind the enemy's stockade. Thru their exertions and the exertions of many others like them this country was saved, the flag was maintained and great prosperity and development have been brought to the land, but as a rule the ex-prisoners have participated very little in the prosperity.

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## TWO NEW STATES FOR THE FLAG.

The long struggle is over, and Arizona and New Mexico have been declared of age, and will be admitted to full sisterhood after they have gone thru the necessary preparatory discipline, which it is expected will require two years. They will have to formulate State Constitutions, which will have to be adopted by the people and then be approved by Congress. It is not anticipated that there will be any trouble about these Constitutions, as the people of these States are of the usual conservative type, and will adopt organic acts closely modeled on those which are in operation in the older States, and without any of the theories and extravagances which were injected into the Constitution of Oklahoma.

Arizona is about 350 miles square and contains 113,020 square miles, or more than twice the area of Ohio. It is sixth in area among the States and 49th in population. It is probably the richest of all the States in mineral resources. A lack of transportation facilities has prevented the development of these. Arizona ranks next to Michigan and Montana in copper, producing more than one-fifth of the total output in the United States. Next comes gold, of which an average annual value of \$2,500,000 is produced, with about 1,000,000 worth of silver. The Spaniards knew of these mines and worked them hundreds of years ago.

It is expected that irrigation will do more for Arizona than any other State, and in the last 10 years the quantity of irrigated land increased from 65,000 to 185,000 acres. There is a rich promise of fruits in the State, and every variety is produced, ripening there earlier than any place else. It has been found that Egyptian cotton can be successfully grown. The population of Arizona has been increasing very rapidly. In 1870 there were only 9,658 people in the Territory, but in 1900 this had increased to 122,931. It is expected that this has since doubled. There are 26,400 Indians in the State, mostly all Navajos. The ruins show that Arizona was once densely populated by a powerful, enterprising and cultivated race, which built cities, aqueducts and fortifications.

New Mexico is 400 miles long by 353 wide, and its total area is 122,580 square miles. It is larger than any other State in the Union except Texas, California and Montana. The whole State lies very high up in the air, quite little of it being below 4,000 feet. The climate is remarkably dry and healthful, and in the lower regions of the South the temperature is mild thru the year, but in the north the thermometer falls below zero. The average rainfall is about 15 inches, being nowhere sufficient for the needs of agriculture. New Mexico's future is expected to be in the development of her mineral resources, with coal and gold being the most important features. There has been an immense increase in the coal output, with a steady rise in that of gold, silver and copper. A notable feature is the production of emeralds, turquoise and other precious stones, which are being sought for more systematically every year, and their production greatly increased.

There are only 23,700 square miles of wooded area in the whole State. Irrigation is largely practiced, and there are 5,120,570 acres under cultivation, which is more than five times as much as there was 10 years ago. Alfalfa is the most important crop, and sugar beets have been grown very successfully. The Rio Grande Valley produces a very fine grape. Corn, wheat, oats and beans do well, and New Mexico claims to be unrivaled in sheep raising. This is mainly carried on in the eastern part of the State, where there is an abundance of mesquite and other varieties of native grasses. In 1850 the population was 61,547, but it had increased to 195,310 in 1900. Of this 7,000 are Mexicans and the Indian population numbers 14,144.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY IN FLORIDA.

Replying to the claim by the Jacksonville (Fla.) Metropolis that Lincoln's Birthday had been made a holiday by the State of Florida, Comrade William James, Past Department Commander of Florida, G. A. R., points out that this was not true, altho' the Governor recommended it. The Senator named Beard moved to lay the Governor's message on the table, claiming that to pass such a law would be an insult to the Confederate veterans of Florida. Out of respect to the Governor this was not done, but the recommendation was not acted upon. Comrade James says:

"Yes, Mr. Editor, if such a law had been enacted, it would be worth millions to the State of Florida. The North loved Lincoln, and his memory has lived forever in their hearts. The recommendation of Gov. Gilchrist will not be forgotten. What of the Legislature? Yes, if you could trace the history of such a law as was upon our statutes, then Florida would be known, as you say, and praised for her liberal and conciliatory spirit. Alas! She made a mistake, and has been to regret unless some other Southern State steps in and picks the fair diadem from her brow."

ST. CLOUD.

D. S. Wilder, of Andersonville, Ga., having written to the editor of the Ohio State Journal denouncing St. Cloud as a "fly-brother," Comrade Wm. S. Bartlett, of New Plymouth, O., at once wrote the Journal as follows: